



MARCH 2006

Labette County News

Labette County FSA
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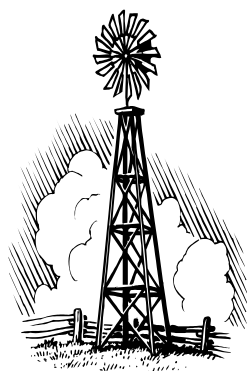
Hours:
Monday - Friday
8:00a.m. – 4:30p.m.

County Committee:
Terry Gossard,
Chairman
David Dhooghe, Vice-
chairman
Darlene Ferguson,
Regular member
County Committee
meets the
1st and 3rd Wednes-
days of the month

Office Staff:
Kitra Cooper, CED
Sally McKinzie, PT
Annetta Henry, PT
Dawn Thompson, PT

Field Staff:
Leon Pearce
Trey Thompson

Quote of the day:
*Opportunity is missed
by most people be-
cause it is dressed in
overalls and looks like
work.—Thomas A.
Edison*



MAKE YOUR APPOINTMENT FOR 2006 DCP PROGRAM SIGNUP AND ACREAGE REPORTS

We are currently taking appointments and approving contracts for the 2006 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program signup. At the time of signup, we also want all producers to file their 2006 planted wheat acreage reports as well as their 2006 Form 633EZ, Page 1, which is the LDP Agreement and Request.

Producers may request their advance DCP payments at the time of signup. Due to recent legislative action, the advance payment percentage has dropped from 50% of the total DCP payment on the farm to 40% for 2006, and will drop further in 2007 to 22%. As always, the full DCP payment balance will be paid in October. The Direct advance payment can be requested in any month. The Counter-Cyclical (CCP) advance payments can also be requested at signup time. Based on current market prices, a second advance 2005 CCP will be paid the end of February.

Crop acreage reports are a requirement of both the DCP and CRP programs. We want producers to file any planted acreage report possible at the time they sign up for the DCP program. We would like to cut down on the number of late-filed acreage reports requested, which is a needless expense and hassle for the producer.

We are also asking that all producers file their 2006 633EZ, Page 1 at this time, which is the form required to be filed to maintain commodity LDP eligibility. Some producers were denied 2005 LDP payments because the Page 1 was not filed before beneficial interest in the crop was lost. Don't let this happen to you!

Please call the office now to make your appointment to complete these items. The deadline to both sign into the 2006 DCP program and file your 2006 planted small grains acreage report without penalty is **May 31, 2006**.

BOBWHITE BUFFER STRIP CRP ACREAGE EXHAUSTED

Kansas FSA has committed the entire 20,000 acres that were allotted to the state for the CRP practice CP33, Bobwhite Buffer Strips. It is not known at this time if the state will be given any more acres for this CRP practice. Labette County approved 56 contracts for a total of 517.5 acres.

LABETTE COUNTY USDA SERVICE CENTER TO HOST OPEN HOUSE MARCH 23, 2006

In celebration of National Agriculture Week, and you, the American farmer, the Labette County USDA Service Center would like to invite everyone to an Open House on **March 23, 2006**. We'd like to show our appreciation for your dedication to providing a safe and inexpensive food supply for not only America, but the world. To enhance awareness of agriculture, we are visiting county 2nd-grade classrooms and sponsoring a coloring contest. You will be able to view this year's winning entries at the open house. This would also be a good time to come in and view the changes that have occurred in the Service Center since the Rural Development Agency moved to Iola last fall. The Service Center building was remodeled to better accommodate our customers. Please make plans to drop by for cookies and punch and check out our "new" office space on March 23. We would love to see you!

NEW CRP GENERAL SIGNUP ANNOUNCED

A CRP general offer signup was recently announced. The signup will be held **March 27 through April 14, 2006**. We don't yet have any details on eligibility requirements, but will let you know as soon as we have more information.

EXPIRING CRP CONTRACTS OFFERED EXTENSIONS

Producers with CRP contracts that will expire Sept. 30, 2007, have recently been made eligible by USDA for contract extensions or re-enrollments. The deadline to accept this offer is **April 14, 2006**. Our office has mailed letters to all eligible participants, giving them the details of their particular contract. These offers are being made based on the contract's original Environmental Benefits Index (EBI) score when the land was initially enrolled in CRP and annual payments will remain the same as paid on the original contract. The participant can elect to extend or re-enroll all or a portion of the expiring contract. Participants who accept the offer will be required to pay for a compliance review of the CRP to ensure the contract is still in compliance with the original conservation plan. The cost of the review is \$45.00 plus \$1.00 per acre per contract. If you are eligible for this offer, please contact our office as soon as possible.

MARCH 15 NAP APPLICATION CLOSING DATE

The next deadline for FSA to accept applications for crop disaster coverage on certain crops under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) is **March 15, 2006**. This applies to the following locally-grown crops: Pecans, Walnuts, Pumpkins, Safflower, Sesame, and other vegetable and melon crops. These crops are not insurable under FCIC rules in Labette County.

Interested producers who may wish to participate in the NAP program must visit their local FSA office to complete an Application for Coverage (CCC-471) and pay the applicable service fee by the sales closing date for the specific crop. Administrative service fees are collected in order to help offset the cost of implementing the program and range from \$100 per crop per administrative county not to exceed \$300 per producer per county with a \$900 maximum fee.

Dates to Remember	
Mar. 15	Deadline to obtain 2006 NAP policies on spring planted crops.
Mar. 31	Final Availability for 2005 crop wheat, barley, oats, honey loans and LDPs.
Mar. 27 - April 14	General CRP Signup
April 14	Final date to re-enroll or extend CRP contracts expiring in 2007.
May 29	Office closed for Memorial Day
May 31	Final date to report small grain acreages.
June 1	Sign-up ends for 2006 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program, without paying late fee.

2006 LOAN RATES ANNOUNCED

2006 commodity loan rates for Labette County have been announced. These rates are also the basis used for calculating LDP payment rates.

- Wheat—\$2.83/bushel
- Barley—\$1.70/ bushel
- Oats—\$1.34/bushel
- Corn—\$2.09/bushel
- Grain Sorghum—\$3.44/cwt
- Soybeans—\$4.98/bushel
- Sunflowers—\$8.71/cwt
- Canola—\$7.92/cwt

E-GOV PRODUCER TRAINING SET FOR MARCH 14 and 23, 2006

“e-Gov” is the term used when talking about the availability of services for FSA customers to conduct business online through their computers. The federal government in general is moving toward more internet processes, making participation in government programs more readily accessible from your home computer. Some of the programs available electronically to FSA customers are: DCP signup, LDP applications, and accessing your financial and payment histories online. However, to be able to use this tool, you must first apply for Level 2 e-Gov access through your local FSA office. We would like to help you understand and apply for this process. We will be holding an informational/ training session for all producers interested in learning more about this on March 14 at 6:30pm, and on March 23 (during our Open House) at 8:30 am. Sessions will be held in the Labette County FSA office so computers will be available for demonstrations. We would love to help you with this process if it’s something you’re interested in. Reservations are not required, but we would ask you to please contact the office if you think you might be attending so we can plan space accordingly.



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